

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /094 W

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R 021457Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3402

INFO AMEMBASSY LOME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, NI

SUBJECT: INDIGENIZATION WARNING TO NATION

BEGIN SUMMARY: DAILY TIMES CARRIED ARTICLE APRIL 1 ENTITLED
INDIGENIZATION D-DAY: A WARNING TO THE NATION. ARTICLE RECALLS
TOGOLESE GOVERNMENT PROBLEMS WITH CTMB AND STATES THERE STILL
PERIOD OF STRUGGLE AHEAD DESPITE INDIGENIZATION. END SUMMARY

1. APRIL 1 ISSUE OF DAILY TIMES CARRIES ARTICLE BY CITY
EDITOR AND ECONOMIST OYEBOLA ON INDIGENIZATION IN NIGERIA
AND NEED FOR FURTHER STRUGGLE TO SECURE ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE.

2. ARTICLE STATES THAT ALTHOUGH INDIGENIZATION HAS QUOTE
BECOME A REALITY UNQUOTE AS OF APRIL 1, IT IS ONLY THE BEGINNING
OF AN END. INDIGENIZATION IS NOW ENTERING A CRUCIAL PHASE
WHICH WILL ENTAIL HARD STRUGGLES. AS A MEANS OF ILLUSTRATING TYPE
OF STRUGGLES NIGERIA LIKELY TO ENCOUNTER WRITER DRAWS
HEAVILY ON RECENT TOGOLESE EXPERIENCE WITH CTMB (COMPAGNIE
TOGOLAISE DES MINES DU BENNI), ALLEGING THAT CTMB HAD
ORGANIZED A PLOT TO KILL PRESIDENT EYADEMA IN PLANE CRASH AND
HAD SOUGHT TO BRIBE HIM WITH 1,500 MILLION CFA FRANCS.

ARTICLE COMMENDS EYADEMA'S COURAGE IN OPPOSING CTMB AND
TAKING IT OVER 100 PERCENT. IT FURTHER NOTES THAT AS RESULT

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OF HIS ACTION HE HAD GAINED CONSIDERABLE EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL

SUPPORT.

3. ARTICLE CONCLUDES THAT NIGERIA CAN DRAW ON IMPORTANT LESSON FROM THE TOGO EXPERIENCE AND THAT ITS STRUGGLE FOR ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE MAY BE TOUGHER THAN IN THE CASE OF TOGO. REASONS ADDUCED FOR THIS CONCLUSION ARE: 1) THERE IS A STRONG BELIEF AMONG DEEPLY ENTRENCHED FOREIGN INTERESTS THAT NIGERIANS ARE TOO CONFUSED, DIVIDED, SELFISH AND CORRUPT TO REALLY MAKE A SUCCESS OF INDIGENIZATION AND 2) NIGERIA IS ONE OF FOUR AFRICAN COUNTRIES THAT WESTERN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES REALLY CARE ABOUT BECAUSE OF ENORMOUS KNOWN AND POTENTIAL MINERAL AND AGRICULTURE RESOURCES AS WELL AS BECAUSE OF HER LARGE POPULATION AND BIG MARKET FOR INDUSTRIAL GOODS.

4. COMMENT: TIMING OF TIMES ARTICLE SURPRISING. ENTRY INTO EFFECT OF INDIGENIZATION DECREE ON APRIL 1 WAS UNEVENTFUL. PUBLIC OUTCRY ABOUT APPLICATION OF DECREE HAS SO FAR BEEN LIMITED TO SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS. IT WOULD SEEM PREMATURE THEREFORE TO CHARGE, AS ARTICLE DOES, EXPATRIATE FIRMS INTENDING TO CIRCUMVENT SPIRIT OF DECREE. HOWEVER ARTICLE REFLECTS VIEWS OF CONSIDERABLE BODY OF OPINION WHICH HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED DURING PREPARATORY PERIOD, AND IS LIKELY TO HAVE CONSIDERABLE PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT IF, AS TIME PASSES, THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT SOME EXPATRIATE FIRMS ARE INDEED SEEKING TO EVADE DECREE. TIMES ARTICLE SEEMS TO BE SOLELY COLORED BY EVENTS IN TOGO AND MAY BE UNDULY APPREHENSIVE OF WHAT WOULD TRANSPIRE IN NIGERIA. AS OF MOMENT WAIT AND SEE ATTITUDE ON HOW DECREE WILL FINALLY WORK SEEMS TO PREVAIL.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, NATIONALIZATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LAGOS02770
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740074-0688
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740474/aaaacqjx.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 SEP 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <10-Sep-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDIGENIZATION WARNING TO NATION BEGIN SUMMARY: DAILY TIMES CARRIED ARTICLE APRIL 1 ENTITLED
TAGS: EGEN, NI, TO, CTMB, (EYADEMA, ETIENNE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005